



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region 5

**Meeting Date:** September 29, 2006

**Meeting Location:** Tippecanoe County Office  
Department of Child Services  
111 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lafayette, IN

**Council Members Present:** Gilbert Smith, Regional Manager; Janis Mullen, Director Carroll and Clinton County DCS; Elva James, Director Benton County DCS; Barbara Bedrick, Director White County DCS; Judge Rader, Warren County; and Deann Beery, Foster Parent.

**Council Members Absent:** Coleen Hamrick, CASA Director, Tippecanoe County; Kathy Shank, FCM Carroll County; Cathy Booe, FCM Supervisor, Fountain County; and Judge Henderson, Fountain County.

**Others In Attendance:** Cindy Mason, Director Fountain County DCS; Linda Akers, Director Warren County DCS; Jackie Agee, Regional Supervisor, Whites Residential; Ken Weller, Attorney; and Rodney Barbee of Wernle.

<h3>Meeting Minutes</h3>
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** 8:30 am

1. Regional Plan – Gil reiterated that we have \$1000 available to us to use towards development of a Regional Plan. He suggested possibly getting someone to facilitate a meeting where the whole Region gets together to create a Regional mission statement. We could invite Indiana Youth Institute to a half day retreat for brainstorming and then we would have someone from the outside to develop a plan. Another option would be to take the individual Early Intervention Plans from each county and combine them into one plan. The Early Intervention Plans are due February 1<sup>st</sup>. If we decide to do the retreat we would probably be looking at January so it would be before the Early Intervention Plans are due. Judge Rader mentioned that the sooner we are able to let everyone know a date the better in order for people to get it on their calendars.
2. County Budget Updates –

Benton County's budget is higher this year due largely to several placements at more expensive facilities. They will be out of money before the end of the year but have a lot of reimbursements coming in. Also, just because a facility says a child will need to be there for a certain amount of time doesn't necessarily mean that they will definitely be there that long.

Carroll County's budget has decreased by almost \$18,000.

Clinton County's budget has decreased \$849,399 this year. This is partly due to Case Manager's working on keeping kids in the home and providing services rather than removing them if possible.

Fountain County's It fluctuates but they have been able to get reimbursements of \$90,000 on \$150,000 - \$160,000 of expenses.

Tippecanoe County has asked for and received a \$4.5 million increase.

Warren County is looking at a shortfall this year but once that is covered they will be good.

White County has asked for \$160,000 to catch up but will run out of money in November. They have a \$680,000 budget with \$100,000 in their psych fund.

3. Waiver Slots – The dollar amount for waiver slots has not changed but the number of kids can. You can now stack kids in a slot. If a child is in a Waiver slot and only uses a portion of the money, another child may be put in that slot to use the remainder of the balance. In this way more of the money is utilized.
4. Child Welfare Service Funds – Gil stated that if Directors want money from this to rollover they will need to write a letter to Bob Daugherty and have it signed by Gil. This is a one time only for this year.
5. Jan Mullen – Clinton Prairie Elementary School would like to purchase 1-2-3 Magic by Thomas W. Phelan, Ph.D. This program teaches parenting skills. Along with the program they would purchase 50 copies of the companion books. The soft back books would be bound by the library so they will last through multiple years of instruction. This program will be used in classed taught by teachers at no charge. The material will be able to be used over and over. They are hoping to begin this during the first semester with evening classes but due to the time frame it may not start until the second semester. Jan is asking for \$4055.75 to fund this project. Motion to approve was made by Barb Bedrick, seconded by Judge Rader. Motion approved.
6. Gil said that foster parent recruitment and retention is a big piece of a statewide initiative by the Villages, White's and Children's Bureau. A

Foster Parent Focus Group for Region 5 will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Ivy Tech for foster parents only. One of Region 5's priorities is Foster parent recruitment and retention. Gil would like to see the time for licensure be streamlined to about three months from the current average of six months. If anyone knows of a foster parent that would like to attend please be sure to let Gil know.

**Due to the holidays in November and December and a mandatory statewide Local Office Director's workshop scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> we will combine those two months into one meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Next Meeting Date, Time and Location:** Friday, December 15, 2006 at 8:30 am at the Tippecanoe County Department of Child Services.

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 9:30 am.